

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /088 W

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R 191435Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1077

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TGWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2588

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: KK DENIES BORDER WITH RHODESIA TO BE REOPENED SOON

1. SPEAKING AT STATE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEC 18, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID ZAMBIA HAS NO PLANS YET TO REOPEN HER SIDE OF BORDER WITH RHODESIA "BECAUSE REASONS WHICH HAD LED TO ITS CLOSURE HAVE NOT YET BEEN REMOVED." PRESIDENT ADDED THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSIDERATION OF THIS STEP BY PARTY OR GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

2. PRESIDENT WAS CLEARLY REACTING TO PRESS STORIES, ESPECIALLY ONE THAT APPEARED IN LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH, TO EFFECT THAT ZAMBIAN EFFORTS TO HELP SOLVE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLOCK STEMMED PRIMARILY FROM ECONOMIC PRESSURES CAUSED BY THE 1973 BORDER CLOSURE
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AND AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AT HOME. HE WENT ON AT SOME

LENGTH TO DENY THAT DOMESTIC FOOD SHORTAGES HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICIES. ZAMBIA, HE DECLARED, HAS FOOD ENOUGH FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AND EVEN FOR EXPORT. KAUNDA REBUKED DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENT, MAURICE WEAVER, WHO WAS PRESENT, FOR FILING STORY AND JOKED THAT HE WOULD BE "WEAVED" IN FUTURE IF HE CONTINUED TO SUBMIT SUCH REPORTS. PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT ZAMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO RHODESIAN POLITICAL SETTLEMENT COMES NOT FROM ECONOMIC MOTIVES BUT FROM GOAL OF AVOIDING NEEDLESS LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE, INCLUDING THAT OF ZAMBIANS KILLED IN CROSS BORDER INCIDENTS. WHAT ZAMBIA HAS DONE AND IS DOING IS BASED ON LUSAKA MANIFESTO AND IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTIONS OF OAU, 1971 LUSAKA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND UN. KAUNDA HANDED WEAVER COPY OF LUSAKA MANIFESTO WITH POINTED SUGGESTION THAT HE CONSULT IT IN FUTURE "TO GET HIS FACTS STRAIGHT."

3. ASKED ABOUT FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND RHODESIA, PRESIDENT SAID THAT THESE WOULD DEPEND UPON INITIATIVE "BY THE OTHER SIDE," AND ESPECIALLY ON OUTCOME OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS. HE DENIED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED IAN SMITH'S INSISTENCE THAT AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE RHODESIAN ELECTIONS MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF QUALIFIED FRANCHISE. THIS, PRESIDENT SAID, IS MATTER FOR RHODESIANS THEMSELVES. WILKOWSKI

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